Friends,

It has been a wild and transformative year in American politics. I am so grateful that I was able to experience and examine it with the Institute of Politics and Public Service (GU Politics) community.

These pages are a snapshot of the 88 events, 136 speakers and guests, 161 student leaders, and 7,627 attendees who joined us along the way. Programs like:

- The Exit Interview and Counterpoint series, shaping the first oral history of politics and policy in the Obama Administration.
- Our Fellows program, which brought ten stellar former elected officials, political reporters and political professionals to interact weekly with students, and
- Our mentorship program, which matched more than 100 Hoyas with mentors working in politics.
- The Baker Center for Leadership & Governance hosted its inaugural Baker Forum on The Future of Prosperity.

We laid out an ambitious but simple mission when we threw open the doors nearly two years ago: help students see politics as a noble means of public service. GU Politics does this by pulling back the curtain and giving Georgetown students unprecedented access to the political system and the people in it; helping students figure out how to pursue a career in politics and public service; and, most importantly, challenging students to help us figure out how to do it better. This work has never been more important.

Time and time again, I’ve heard from students how GU Politics has changed their lives. It’s changed mine, too. None of it would be possible without you. Thank you.
Our flagship program, the Fellows Program, connects students with political leaders over the course of a semester to discuss and tackle some of the leading news in politics today. Through weekly, off-the-record, non-credit discussion groups and weekly office hours, our students have the opportunity to engage with political practitioners willing to “pull back the curtain” and share some of the best kept secrets in Washington.

Our second year of Fellows included a former presidential candidate and governor, the head of a leading advocacy organization, well-known journalists and political operatives from both sides of the aisle. Our 10 Fellows hosted a total of 80 discussion groups on topics ranging from the #TrumpTape to Criminal Justice Reform to Fighting ISIL on Social Media.

The thing that amazed me most was the larger community of students for whom GU Politics has become the heart of their college career. I heard — over and over again — from students who literally couldn’t imagine life at Georgetown without it.

Michael Steel (Fall ’16 Fellow)
I knew the Fellowship at the Georgetown Institute of Politics and Public Service would be awesome, but it was even more incredible than I expected. The students and I had great conversations about social justice and the role of organizing. They loved to learn about the history of these movements, and we all learned from each other as we discussed what the future should look like. I’ll never forget their passion for wanting to make the world a better place through public service.

Marlon Marshall (Spring ’17 Fellow)
Being on a Student Strategy Team (SST) has given me the chance to meet and interact with some of the most knowledgeable and experienced figures in politics and political journalism. During my Fellow’s discussion group and others, the off-the-record stories and insights of Fellows and guests have exposed me to the world of politics in a unique and candid way. Getting to spend time with and hear from my Fellow has contributed monumentally to my understanding of political processes, particularly those in DC. Being on Anna Palmer’s SST has provided me with invaluable opportunities to see the relationship between politics and media and understand it from a firsthand perspective.

Megan Carey (MSB ’20)
Each Fellow is assigned a group of five students (their Student Strategy Team) who help them throughout the semester — researching for their discussion groups, promoting their sessions and speaking events, connecting them with other student groups and the rest of the campus community. Student Strategy Team members get exclusive one-on-one and small group time with Fellows on ways to better connect politics, government and media to their generation. In our second year, a total of 194 students applied for 50 Student Strategy Team slots.

“Being on an SST taught me that the people I’ve always admired from afar for their work in public service and the political sphere are much more accessible than I ever thought they could be.”

Grace Perret (COL ’20)
Political Hackathon

Each semester, we task the Student Strategy Teams with identifying a problem in politics, and then developing a solution to fix it. Each team presents the problems they’ve identified and proposes an innovative solution. The students use their creativity and ingenuity to drive the process, bringing an “outsider’s perspective” to politics and finding a solution to make the political process better. Our hope is that our Fellows and the GU Politics network can take these new ideas and bring them into the political world and see what change they can create.

This experience has allowed me to break out of the bubble of the same voices I have been hearing from for years.

Jen Psaki (Spring ’17 Fellow)

This year, students’ projects touched on a variety of aspects of the political process. Some focused more on the process — shortening the campaign season, combating voter suppression, reforming the Commission on Presidential Debates, and campaign finance reform. Others focused more closely on civic engagement — including the development of a youth civic engagement and representation curriculum, as well as the creation of a nonprofit, bipartisan foundation to attack political polarization. All ten projects from this year will be published this summer.

Speakers & Events

This year, GU Politics sponsored or hosted 88 events, featuring a diverse range of 136 distinct speakers and guest moderators, and drawing a combined total of 7,627 attendees at our events over the course of the year.

Taking advantage of our location in the heart of the nation’s capital, we’ve been able to bring many of the smartest and best known political figures in the country to campus — not to talk at students, but to have real conversations with them. We’ve had an impressive mix of Republicans and Democrats, elected officials and campaign operatives, political journalists and media personalities headline and moderate events.

In addition to the event series from our inaugural year, we’ve launched new series of events that have become fixtures of GU Politics programming:

“The Exit Interview” featured cabinet secretaries and other senior Obama White House officials who explored the administration’s successes, challenges and regrets in various policy areas, highlighted initiatives and goals to accomplish in the home stretch of the administration, and offered advice for the next administration.

“Counterpoint” featured elected officials and other high profile figures who offered an alternative perspective on the Obama Administration’s record in various policy areas.

“Battleground VA” hosts conversations about the 2017 gubernatorial election, from primary season through the fall election. With Virginia right across the Potomac, this gubernatorial election gives students the opportunity to learn about the candidates running for governor, and the chance to become more engaged in the political process.

“Political Pageturners” is a series that invites prominent politicians, writers, and others to the Hilltop to discuss their latest books. Political Pageturners offers students an opportunity to explore the books with the authors and engage on how the themes relate to national, local, and campus issues.

I really don’t think that there is any other space on campus where you can find such constructive conversation bridging both ends of the political range.

Charlotte Kovach (COL ’18)
Event Spotlight:  
First Presidential Debate Watch Party  
September 26, 2016

This Debate Watch featured Ben LaBolt, President of The Incite Agency and former National Press Secretary for the Obama re-elect, and Mindy Finn, Senior Advisor for IMG and former Chief Digital Strategist for the RNC, as commentators. Mo Ellefsee, Executive Director, GU Politics; Joe Perticone, Congressional Reporter, Independent Journal Review; and Brianna Keilar; Senior Political Correspondent, CNN; GU Politics Advisory Board member and Fall 2015 Fellow skyped into the event, sharing live behind-the-scenes action from the debate hall and spin room. Co-sponsors included the College Democrats, College Republicans, and the Independent Journal Review.
Panelists gathered to discuss millennials and what mattered most to them as they prepared to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election. Panelists included: Tim Miller, former Communications Director, Jeb Bush 2016; Symone Sanders, former National Press Secretary, Bernie 2016; Steve Glickman (COL’02), Co-Founder and Executive Director, Economic Innovation Group; former Senior Economic Advisor at the National Security Council; Cathy Koch (PHD ’94), America’s Tax Policy Leader, Ernst & Young, former Tax Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Harry Reid and Max Baucus; GIU Politics Advisory Board Member; Moderated by: Michelle Jacori, Senior Advisor; Independent Journal Review. Co-sponsored with Ernst & Young, the Economic Innovation Group.

### Event Spotlight: The Millennial Mindset: Millennials, the Economy, and What It Means for 2016

October 17, 2016

Panels gathered to discuss millennials and what mattered most to them as they prepared to vote in the 2016 Presidential Election. Panelists included: Tim Miller, former Communications Director, Jeb Bush 2016; Symone Sanders, former National Press Secretary, Bernie 2016; Steve Glickman (COL’02), Co-Founder and Executive Director, Economic Innovation Group; former Senior Economic Advisor at the National Security Council; Cathy Koch (PHD ’94), America’s Tax Policy Leader, Ernst & Young, former Tax Policy Advisor to U.S. Senator Harry Reid and Max Baucus; GIU Politics Advisory Board Member; Moderated by: Michelle Jacori, Senior Advisor; Independent Journal Review. Co-sponsored with Ernst & Young, the Economic Innovation Group.

### Career Chat: Getting Your Start in Political Journalism

The event featured speakers discussing how to get started in political journalism, with a focus on the role of journalists in covering politics and their impact on the public discourse. The speakers included a diverse range of journalists from different backgrounds and perspectives, providing insights into the field.

### Georgetown Election Day: Walk to the Polls with GS Votes

Participants gathered to participate in the Walk to the Polls event, which aimed to educate and encourage voter participation in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The event was organized by GS Votes, a group dedicated to promoting civic engagement and political awareness among students.

### Election Day Pre-Game Panel

The panel discussion included experts and analysts who provided insights into the election day strategies and outcomes. Speakers included political scientists, media analysts, and former campaign advisors, offering a comprehensive view of the electoral process.

### Exit Interview: The Environment

A conversation with experts on environmental policy and sustainability, discussing their views on the role of the government in addressing climate change and other environmental issues.

### McCourt Fellow Meet-and-Greet

The event provided an opportunity for Mcourt Fellows to network and share their experiences with other fellows, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among the fellows. It also served as a platform to highlight the achievements and contributions of the fellows to the field of public policy.

### Event Spotlight: Girls on the Bus: Reflections on Campaign 2016

A conversation with survivors of sexual assault, exploring their experiences and the role of the media in covering these issues. The panel featured survivors who shared their stories, highlighting the importance of empathy and understanding in the coverage of such sensitive topics.

### Exit Interview: Counterpoint on The Economy

A discussion with experts on economic policy, focusing on the implications of the election on the economy and the role of the government in shaping economic policies.
Meet the Spring 2017 Fellows Open House

Embids: Reporters Revitalizing Political Journalism
Robert Draper, The New York Times; Scott Conroy (COL ’03), co-creator of Embids; Peter Hamby (COL ’03), co-creator of Embids and GU Politics Advisory Board Member; Jackie Alemany, CBS News; Sopan Deb, The New York Times; Ruby Cramer, Buzzfeed News

Student Advisory Board Fireside Chat: Resistance in the Trump Era

Sanders v. Cruz Debate Watch
Co-sponsored with GU College Democrats and GU College Republicans

McCourt Fellows Meet-and-Greet
Marlon Marshall, Tony Sayegh, Spring 2017 GU Politics Fellows

HIPPSter Chat: From SFS to Chief of Staff
Jonathan Burke (SFS ’98), Chief of Staff to Speaker of the House, Paul Ryan
Co-sponsored with the Walsh School of Foreign Service, the Georgetown University Office of Federal Relations, and the Georgetown University College Republicans

Event Spotlight: Baker Forum
January 25, 2016

Leaders from business, government, academia, and the nonprofit worlds gathered at the inaugural Baker Forum, The Future of Prosperity, to discuss the pace of technological change and what it means for our economy and the future of prosperity, and to present the 2017 Baker Innovators selected by the Baker Center for Leadership & Governance.

Speakers: Aneesh Chopra, President, Nav-Health, First U.S. Chief Technology Officer; Donna Harris, Co-Founder, 1776, Founding Partner, Bloomberg Beta; Christian Conroy (MPP ’14), Baker Innovator; Carlos M. Gutierrez, Co-Chair, Albright Stonebridge Group; former U.S. Secretary of Commerce; Edward B. Montgomery, Dean, McCourt School of Public Policy; and Jon M. Baker, Jr. (C ’64), Founder, Chairman, and CEO of International Planning Group. Sonal Shah, Executive Director, Georgetown Beeck Center for Social Impact + Innovation, moderated.


This event brought together a panel of leading voices to discuss the Syrian refugee crisis, raise awareness, and discuss potential bipartisan policy solutions.

Panelists included Nora Barré, Help Me Go Home Board Member; Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Member of House Committee on Foreign Affairs; Anne Richard, former Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and Migration; and SE Cupp, Board Member for Help Me Go Home, GU Politics Advisory Board Member, CNN Contributor. Jim Sciutto, Chief National Security Correspondent of CNN, moderated the conversation.

#SCOTUS: Nomination, Confirmation, and the Future of the Court
Sara Fagen, former White House Political Director for President George W. Bush, GU Politics Advisory Board Member; Ron Klain, former Chief Counsel, Senate Judiciary Committee, GU Politics Advisory Board Member; moderated by Bob Barnes, Supreme Court Reporter, The Washington Post

Video Training
Dave Jorgenson, Producer at Independent Journal Review; Rob Groulx, Director of Video for Axios

Political Pageturners: The Art of the Political Deal
Jill Lawrence, Commentary Editor and Columnist, USA Today
Co-sponsored with the Baker Center for Leadership & Governance

Digital Media Strategy
Jenna Lowenstein, former Digital Director, Hillary for America (COL ’09)

McCourt Lunch with Grover Norquist
Politic Pageturners: Who Thought This Was a Good Idea?
Alyssa Mastromonaco, President of Global Communications at A+E Networks, former Assistant to the President and Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, President Obama
Co-sponsored with the Georgetown Women’s Alliance, the Georgetown University Women in Leadership, the Women in Public Policy Initiative, the Institute for Women, Peace, and Security, and POLITICO.

Battleground Virginia: Tom Perriello
Tom Perriello, Democratic Candidate for VA Governor, former U.S. Representative for Virginia’s 5th congressional district, former Special Envoy in Africa and CEO of CAP Action Fund; Moderated by Michael Shear, The New York Times
Co-sponsored with the GU College Democrats

The Democrats’ Case to Millennials
Tom Perez, DNC Chairman & former Secretary of Labor; Keith Ellison, former Spacial Assistant to the President for Management and Administration; former Director White House Personnel, Obama Administration; Lacy Kline, former Director of the White House Internship Program and DC Scholars Program, Obama Administration
Co-sponsored with the Swearer Center at Brown University

Student Advisory Board Internship Workshop
Running for Political Office
Marlon Marshall, Spring 2017 GU Politics Fellow; Chris Malone, Senior Vice President, Black Rock Group (SCS ’17); moderated by Nicole Bibbins Sedaca, Chair of the MSFS Global Politics and Security concentration
Co-sponsored with the Walsh School of Foreign Service

Political Pageturners: A Black Man in the White House
Cornell Belcher, Pollster for ’08 and ’12 Obama Campaigns, former Pollster for the Democratic National Committee; Moderated by Michele Norris, Peabody Award-winning journalist; Founder, The Race Card Project; Executive Director, The Bridge

Charting Your Career in Politics and Public Service
Jennie Fay, former Special Assistant to the President for Management and Administration; former Director White House Personnel, Obama Administration; Lacy Kline, former Director of the White House Internship Program and DC Scholars Program, Obama Administration
Co-sponsored with the Swearer Center at Brown University

Battleground Virginia: Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam
Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, Democratic Candidate for VA Governor, a Virginia Military Institute graduate, pediatric neurologist; Moderated by Ryan Nobles, Washington Correspondent, CNN
Co-sponsored with GU College Democrats

GU Correspondents’ Dinner
Jeff Mason, President of the White House Correspondents’ Association; Scott Mulhauser, Fall 2016 GU Politics Fellow; Michael Steel, Fall 2016 GU Politics Fellow; Grover Norquist, Spring 2017 GU Politics Fellow, GU Sketch Society
Co-sponsored with The Hoya

Resume Prep and Interview Training for Jobs in Politics & Public Service
Jennie Fay, former Special Assistant to the President for Management and Administration; former Director White House Personnel, Obama Administration
Co-sponsored with the Swearer Center at Brown University

Whereas I may usually be starstruck in these types of situations, the format of the SST and GU Politics took that awkwardness and timidity away, and allowed me to make deep connections with my Fellow right off the bat. In attending my Fellow’s discussion groups, other Fellows’ discussion groups, and the seemingly infinite number of events that GU Politics puts on, I have gained so much insight, so many skills, and learned just an incredible amount of interesting tidbits about life in the political arena.

Jack Dobkin (SFS ’19)
The Exit Interview

“The Exit Interview” featured cabinet secretaries and senior Obama White House officials who explored the administration’s successes, challenges and regrets in various policy areas, highlighted initiatives and goals to accomplish in the home stretch of the administration, and offered advice for the next administration.

This six-part series covered a wide range of policy and political topics at the forefront of national policymaking during President Obama’s administration, including: national security and foreign policy; the economy; criminal and social justice; climate change; health care reform; and the political culture in Washington.

Speakers included:
- Ambassador Susan Rice, National Security Advisor
- Attorney General Loretta E. Lynch
- Health & Human Services Secretary Sylvia Mathews Burwell
- Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew (L’83)
- Interior Secretary Sally Jewell
- Senior Advisor Brian Deese
- Political Director David Sima

Counterpoint

As part of larger conversations with “The Exit Interview” series, GU Politics hosted a number of “Counterpoint” events over the course of the Fall 2016 semester. “Counterpoint” featured elected officials and other high-profile figures who offered an alternative perspective on the Obama Administration’s record in various policy areas.

Speakers included:
- Former Congressman Mike Rogers
- Grover Norquist (Founder and President, Americans for Tax Reform)
- Jim Connaughton (former Chairman, White House Council on Environmental Quality, President George W. Bush)
- Senator John Barrasso (COL ’74, G ’78) (U.S. Senator (R-WY))

Georgetown Election Day

Over a thousand Hoyas came out to the Healy Family Student Center to take part in the Presidential Election Day festivities on November 8, 2016. The day kicked off with walks to the polls with GU Votes and continued with luncheons and panel discussions on topics ranging from how the election works to what the U.S. could expect post-election, and with Skype sessions with people on the ground with campaigns across the country. The energy throughout the day was contagious as students played their hand at political trivia with Chris Cillizza (COL ’98, Founder of “The Fix”), election prediction competitions, shared why they voted, and had a blast with our photo booth, games, and more. In the evening, Hoyas packed the HFSC Great Room for the “GU Election Returns Watch Party” to come together as the election results trickled in.

Co-sponsors included the Georgetown University Student Association (GUSA), College Democrats (GUCD), College Republicans (GUCR), the Georgetown Program Board (GPB), GU Votes, Georgetown Running Club, Hoyasana, and Barley Mac.

Speakers & Events

I spent hour after hour on campus discussing everything from electoral breakdowns to the South China Sea to finding a job on Capitol Hill, and still remember the hours of discussions on Election Day and the days that followed, and love how close the Fellowship still keeps me to Georgetown, from appearances on campus again next month to Hoyas games to outings with Fellows and students even now.

Scott Mulhauser (Fall ’16 Fellow)
One of our highest priorities this year was elevating our career programming and offering more to prepare our students for careers in politics and public service. Through career chats, the return of our HIPPSter series, hands-on workshops, and site visits to employers, our students had the chance to delve into career opportunities they may not have otherwise considered.

**As a Fellow, I learned that when you teach smart students you both teach and learn. One learns more about one’s own craft when “forced” not simply to do politics but to explain what, (and why, and how) you are doing.**

Grover Norquist (Spring ’17 Fellow)

**Career Chats + Workshops**

This year we expanded our career chats to also include more hands-on workshops. We launched a three-part series on digital media, and brought in Jennie Fay, former Director of White House Personnel, to lead a two-part series on careers in politics and public service, from career planning to resume and interview preparation.

**HIPPSter* (Hoyas in Politics and Public Service)**

Our HIPPSter* series brings notable Georgetown alums back to the Hilltop to talk with students about their work and how they shaped their path from Georgetown to their current role. We brought some alums back to the Hilltop to discuss careers in lobbying, their work on the Trump Inaugural Committee, and a new role as Chief of Staff to Speaker Paul Ryan.

One of our central tenets is connecting students with public servants. What better way than to actually connect them one-on-one? The GU Politics Mentorship program creates personal relationships between students and practitioners and any topic is fair game. They can pick each others’ brains, explore career advice, or just sit back over coffee and talk politics.

This year we decided to build more of a framework for the program over the course of an academic semester. Students applied in the fall semester to be matched in January 2017 with their mentor.

**The political experiences I have had in a few months as a freshman are more numerous than most people will ever experience in their lifetime, and it is all because of GU Politics. I love the Georgetown University Institute of Politics and Public Service, and have truly found a home there.**

Dominic Solari (COL ’20)

**SAMPLE LIST OF MENTORS**

- Senior Vice President at SKDKnickerbocker
- Partner at Hamilton Place Strategies
- White House Reporter, CNN
- Senior Research Associate, Urban Institute
- Former Digital Director, Hillary for America
- Director, Federal Government Affairs at CVS Health
- Director, Office of Taiwan Coordination, U.S. Department of State
- Senior Vice President of Communications & Marketing, Human Rights Campaign
In 2016-2017, we created even more opportunities for students to lead at GU Politics. Two new digital media initiatives – the Fly on the Wall podcast, and the On Set with GU Politics video series, sought to take advantage of the big name politicos coming to visit GU Politics each week.

**Fly On The Wall Podcast**

In the spring, GU Politics launched Fly on the Wall, a new, entirely student-run podcast. Their mission is to “get behind the biggest of decisions in the game and learn how things get done in this complicated yet beautiful world of American politics.” Each week, a team of five undergraduates planned, promoted and produced a high-quality podcast, whose audience grew to hundreds of listeners.

The team released nearly a dozen episodes featuring spring 2017 Fellows, speechwriters Cody Keenan and Marc Thiessen, top pollster Cornell Belcher, advisory board members Ron Klain and Charlie Spies, and a foreign ambassador. Fly on the Wall also created two special episodes, partnering with The Caravel, a student-run journal of international affairs, to produce a special series on climate change, and traveling with GU Politics to Georgia to cover the special election in the sixth district.

GU Politics inspired me to be more involved in politics and has given me a community that I can rely on throughout my college years.

Sonali Mirpuri (COL '20)

On Set with GU Politics, also launched in the spring, is a new student-run video series. The series allows Hoyas to interview today’s leaders in politics and public service about their careers and points of view. On Set with GU Politics is an effort to learn about current political topics and gain advice, all in hopes of discovering new ways to make our government and world just a little better.

On Set team interviewed GU Politics Fellows Marlon Marshall, Jen Psaki, Anna Palmer, and Grover Norquist, and GU Politics guests Adrienne Elrod, Ralph Northam, Dan Kanninen, and Alyssa Mastromonaco.

Creating On Set with GU Politics has been extremely rewarding. I have gained so many skills in terms of media production and leadership. I have had the ability to interview high level people and create my own videos to help promote GU Politics.

Beth Cunniff (COL '19)
Student Leadership

Overview

Our student leaders are the backbone of what we do at GU Politics. In our second year, more than 160 students took on leadership roles, serving on the Student Advisory Board, working on the GU Votes initiative, helping Fellows as part of Student Strategy Teams, engaging in pre-event research as part of the Research Squad, helping with in-event social media as a member of the Comms Crew, and making sure events ran smoothly on the Special Operations Team.

Student Advisory Board (SAB)

The Student Advisory Board is a critical component of GU Politics. Student Advisory Board members work in tandem with the staff to plan and promote programming, engage a diverse group of students across campus, and carry out the mission and long-term vision of the Institute.

Student Advisory Board members can be found at every single GU Politics event, holding meetings on the floor of our offices when we’ve run out of chairs, and are constantly generating thoughtful advice and fresh ideas. They are an extension of our staff and make everything that we do possible.

“Being on the SAB has given me the chance of working alongside a dedicated and incredible group of Georgetown students from every class, school, and year. The SAB has been instrumental in shaping my junior year at Georgetown as I have been able to plan events, have backstage access with guest speakers, lead volunteer groups of students for GU Politics, and attend numerous events hosted by the institute. I started out as an SST member during the first semester of GU Politics and I have seen it grow; the SAB has been an unmatchable opportunity and it has meant everything for me.”

Omar Torres (COL ’18)

Student Advisory Board 2016-2017

Jessica Andino
COL ’18
Co-Chair

Kaley Schneider
MPP ’18
Co-Chair

Gabriella Barrera
SFS ’19

C. C. Borzilleri
COL ’19

Hunter Estes
SFS ’19

Rachel Hirsch
MPP ’17

Santana Jackson
COL ’17

Charlotte Kovach
COL ’18

Naomi Lim
MPP ’17

Max Magid
COL ’19

Connor Maytnier
COL ’17

Paul Paez
COL ’17

Drew Rodriguez
COL ’19

Joe Schartz
MPP ’18

Omar Torres
COL ’18
GU Votes is a student-led initiative, created to expand civic awareness and increase voter registration levels among Georgetown students, institutionalize civic engagement efforts on campus, and make registering to vote an automated activity among freshmen starting in the fall of 2016.

In its second school year, GU Votes student leaders continued their #1000GUVotes campaign, holding voter registration events and partnering with campus media to publicize GU Votes initiatives. By the 2016 Presidential Election, they registered over 1,600 Hoyas to vote, exceeding their original goal of 1,000 students.

GU Votes allowed me to propel my passion for politics into action, helping to register over 1,600 Hoyas to vote and encouraging the entire Georgetown community to engage in the political process.

Andrew Straky (COL ’20)

Where else can a student from small-town Massachusetts see seven members of a presidential cabinet, engage in riveting discussion with renowned journalists and strategists, and mingle with former governors and presidential candidates? Only in the GU Politics Office. GU Politics and the Special Ops team offers Hoyas extraordinary opportunities to acquire hands-on experience in both politics and public service. I learn as much at events and in discussion sections as I do in some of my classes, and I am inspired to be a better citizen and public servant in the process.

William Linde (SFS ’20)

Entering the 2016-2017 academic year, GU Politics launched a new team of students, the Research Squad. Students interested in driving the direction of in-event conversations while staying behind-the-scenes assisted in providing pre-event briefings for our event speakers and moderators throughout the year.

In its first year, over 30 students joined the Comms Crew to help craft the narrative of GU Politics. Students promoted programming, interacted with campus press, captured the magic live during events, and continued the conversation after events. Comms Crew members also received special digital strategy and videography training from top professionals in the communications field.
When new Hoyas arrive on the Hilltop each fall, they often begin a search for friends with which to share their new home for the next four years. For twenty students in the Class of 2020, GU Politics has been that home from the moment they walked through the gates at 37th and O Streets.

GU Politics, with the help of five student leaders who served as mentors throughout the program, hosted “Campaign Bootcamp: Battleground Virginia,” a five-day pre-orientation to Georgetown focused on the 2016 presidential election in the neighboring state of Virginia.

The students attended daily sessions led by top campaign operatives in political targeting, polling and public opinion, media and messaging, GOTV, and scheduling. Through these sessions and opportunities to speak with staffers from both the Clinton and Trump campaigns, students got an introduction to the skills needed to create a successful presidential campaign in a swing-state. Using that information, the students split into two groups to create a schedule for a two-day swing through Virginia in late October for either Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump. The five days culminated with an afternoon of final presentations by both teams to determine the best campaign strategists.

Students who went through Campaign Bootcamp have proved to be some of the most involved students in GU Politics this year, and have created strong and lasting friendships.

Campaign Bootcamp

We were thrilled to welcome Tom Perriello (former U.S. Representative for Virginia’s 5th Congressional District) and Ralph Northam (40th Lieutenant Governor of Virginia) for two Battleground Virginia series events in the Spring 2017 semester.

This series is part of ongoing conversations about the 2017 gubernatorial election, from primary season through the November election. With Virginia right across the Potomac, this gubernatorial election gives students the opportunity to immerse themselves in a campaign right in their own backyard, to learn about the candidates running for Governor, and the chance to become more engaged in the political process.

Invitations to participate in similar conversations have been extended to Republican candidates.

#HoyasInGA

In spring 2017, GU Politics took a group of students to the Peace State to observe the special election in Georgia’s 6th Congressional District and allow them the opportunity to witness the energy of a political campaign firsthand. Over the weekend, #HoyasInGA volunteered on campaigns, participated in events, attended meetings with candidates (including Jon Ossoff SFS ’09 and Georgia State Senator Judson Hill), campaign staffs, members of the media, and Georgia Democratic and Republican Party leaders.

There are few places at Georgetown where students can interact with other students, administrators, and outside professionals to learn hard skills. GU Politics is home and it has been the best experience I have had at Georgetown because this is what I was looking for in a college experience. I cannot imagine my Georgetown experience without GU Politics.

Jessica Andino (COL ’18)

Site Visits

As much as we love having inspiring people on the Hilltop, we think it’s just as important to help connect students to the rest of the District of Columbia. This year, we scaled up our site visits to leading organizations around town. We visited the following organizations:

- Republican National Committee
- POLITICO
- The Wall Street Journal
- Office of the Speaker of the House
- The White House
- Conservative Political Action Conference 2017
- Office of Congressman Raul Labrador
- American Enterprise Institute
Last summer, GU Politics took 20 Georgetown students to Cleveland, OH and Philadelphia, PA as part of our “Convention Ambassadors” program for a behind-the-scenes look at the party nomination process.

In Cleveland, #HoyasAtRNC interned with the Republican National Committee communication staff and POLITICO. Students had the chance to meet members of Congress, key staff, reporters, and other politicos like Nigel Farage, Sean Spicer, Muriel Bowser, Kevin McCarthy, and Kate Bolduan. Students also met with Eric Trump (MSB ‘06) over a private breakfast the morning after his convention speech to hear about his perception of politics as a first-time participant in the process.

The 20 students, who applied to join the programs, took turns documenting their adventures on social media like Twitter and Snapchat, and produced blog posts and videos about their experiences. At both conventions, students had the opportunity to watch most of the major speeches in person, including then-Republican candidate Donald Trump and former First Lady Michelle Obama.

I have also gotten some fantastic opportunities personally through GU Politics, including traveling to the Republican National Convention in July 2016. This was truly a life-changing experience and definitely inspired me to pursue a career in politics or public service. I can’t thank GU Politics enough for giving me some of my best memories and connecting me with some of my best friends.

CC Borzilleri (COL ’19)

#HoyasAtDNC, along with reporters and politicos, were able to participate in a “College Trivia Showdown” at the CNN Grill in partnership with CNN and Google. While in Philly, students met dozens of the biggest names in politics, including Governor Martin O’Malley, Jen Psaki, Congressman Eric Swalwell, David Axelrod, Kay Hagen, and Trevor Noah.

To be surrounded by smart, energetic, politically engaged students excited about the election — and to witness the obvious respect and affection students and Fellows of all political stripes had for each other — was a refreshing weekly reminder of what drew me to both political journalism and to Georgetown University in the first place.

Rebecca Sinderbrand (Fall ’16 Fellow, COL ’99)
From Georgetown campus press like The Hoya and The Voice, to mainstream outlets like The Washington Post and U.S. News & World Report, to digital outlets like the Independent Journal Review, GU Politics has earned great coverage for its events and programming in its second year. Our active social media presence, coupled with news-making events, has led to successful strategies on social media and engagement with Hoyas and beyond on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**STATS**

- 2,608 Facebook page likes
- 2,565 email audience
- 4,801 Twitter followers
- 160 IG posts
- 624 IG followers
- 6,045 IG likes
- 141.4K+ Twitter profile visits
- 6,046 tweets
- 3.5M+ Twitter impressions
- 45% email open rate (average)
- 2,988 new site visitors (last 30 days)
- 1,367 returning site visitors (last 30 days)

**Overview**

GU Politics Welcomes New Fellows
Panel Examines Media, Public Disturb in 2016 Election
Climate Efforts Will Continue Despite Rhetoric, Officials Say
Trump’s Big Opportunity

Created thanks to the generosity of Patricia and Jon M. Baker, Sr. (C’64), the Baker Center for Leadership & Governance is a major center at Georgetown within the Institute of Politics and Public Service at the McCourt School of Public Policy. Premised on the notion that there is a growing distrust in the fundamental institutions of society, the Baker Center serves as a conduit for collaboration, bringing together stakeholders from government, business, nonprofits, academia, and faith-based organizations, to tackle pressing global challenges and engage in the important work of restoring faith in our institutions. The Baker Center’s mission is to promote civil dialogue and debate and cultivate a new generation of leaders.

Promoting constructive dialogue and debate
Each year, the Baker Center identifies a theme, a persistent policy challenge that contributes to the erosion of trust in our fundamental institutions. A yearlong exploration of the topic and its multiple dimensions culminates in the annual Baker Forum in Washington, DC. At our first Forum on January 25, 2017, leaders from across sectors discussed the pace of technological change and what it means for our economy and the future of prosperity. Featured speakers included Carlos Gutierrez, former Commerce secretary and co-chair of Albright Stonebridge Group, Sonal Shah, executive director of Georgetown’s Beeck Center for Social Innovation + Change, Donna Harris, co-founder of 1776, Aneesh Chopra, the nation’s first U.S. chief technology officer, Karin Klein, a founding partner of Bloomberg Beta, and McCourt School student Christian Conroy, one of our first five Baker Innovation Grant recipients.

Cultivating new leaders
The Baker Center launched the Innovation Grant to provide emerging leaders within the McCourt School the opportunity to pursue bold solutions to major policy issues. Each Baker Innovator receives leadership skills training and $20,000 in seed capital to explore innovative solutions to a policy or political problem around the theme of security. They will present their creative initiatives at the 2018 Baker Forum. This fall, the Baker Center will also launch a series of trainings and workshops designed to help students across Georgetown University develop practical leadership skills that set them apart from peers when they (re)enter the workforce.

The 2017 Baker Innovators:
- **Rebecca Gerr (MPP/MBA ’18):** launching a community-based health program to support adolescents transitioning into adulthood to make well-informed healthcare decisions.
- **Kelley Schneider (MPP ’18):** bringing together local community members in Waterloo, Iowa, for open, respectful dialogue, with an aim to reduce partisan anxiety and promote a sense of security.
- **Christian Conroy (MPP/MSFS ’18):** developing a website to make the impacts of political gerrymandering more transparent and easily understood by the average voter.
- **Adam Bouyamour (MPP ’18):** addressing food insecurity by launching a text messaging app to connect nonprofit food distribution networks with populations in need.
- **Jacob Ford (MPP ’18):** creating an ‘internship bank’ to provide students at a Washington, DC, high school with critical work experience, with the goal to reduce truancy and raise the Southeast DC school’s graduation rate.

Visit bakercenter.georgetown.edu for more information on the Baker Center and its programming.
Advisory Board

The GU Politics Advisory Board consists of a distinguished and diverse group of professionals from the political and media worlds. Members meet each semester to provide guidance, advice, and suggestions to GU Politics staff. They participate in programming by serving as speakers and moderators at events, they mentor students, and they serve as ambassadors for the Institute and assist us in expanding our network, allowing us to serve more students.

Mary Cheney
Managing Editor, New Troy Strategies

Ron Christie
Former Policy Advisor to Vice President Cheney and Special Assistant to President George W. Bush
Adjunct Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy

S.E. Cupp
Columnist, New York Daily News
CNN Contributor and former host of "Crossfire"

Patrick Dillon
Columnist, New York Daily News
CNN Contributor and former host of "Crossfire"

E.J. Dionne
Columnist, The Washington Post
Senior Fellow, The Brookesk Institution
Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy

Sara Fagen
Former White House Political Director, President George W. Bush
CNBC Contributor

Tina Flournoy (COL ‘78, L ‘84)
Chief of Staff, Office of President Bill Clinton

Peter Hamby (COL ‘03)
Head of News, Snapchat
Former Emmy award-winning political reporter, CNN

Brad Jenkins
Head of News, Snapchat
Former Emmy award-winning political reporter, CNN

Brianna Keilar
Senior Political Correspondent, CNN

Kim Kingsley
Co-founder and former Chief Operating Officer, POLITICO

Ron Klain (COL ‘83)
Former Chief of Staff to Vice Presidents Biden and Gore
Ebola Response Coordinator, Obama Administration
Senior Debate Preparation Advisor to Obama, Kerry, Gore and Clinton
Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University

Cathy Koch
American Tax Policy Leader, Ernst & Young, former Tax Policy Advisory to Harry Reid and Max Baucus

Kevin Madden
Former Senior advisor and Spokesman for Gov. Mitt Romney’s 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns
Former Press Secretary to then-House Majority Leader John Boehner

Kim Rubey
Head of Global Communications and Strategic Engagement, Airbnb

Alex Skatell
Founder and CEO, Independent Journal

Charlie Spies
Election Law Attorney for Jeb SuperPAC
Romney SuperPAC, and Republican National Committee

Ashley Spillane
Millennial Engagement Expert
Former President, Rock the Vote

MO ELLITHEE | Executive Director
Before launching the Institute, Mo spent nearly two decades as one of the top communications strategists in the Democratic Party, helping political leaders and organizations figure out how to tell their story. Most recently the Communications Director of the Democratic National Committee, he is a veteran of four presidential campaigns, including as Senior Spokesman on Hillary Clinton’s 2008 campaign.

HANNA HOPE | Chief Of Staff
A U.S. Senate campaign veteran and nonprofit professional, Hanna Hope is the Chief of Staff for Georgetown University’s Institute of Politics and Public Service. A key member of the team that grew the Georgetown Institute into a respected place for public service and politics, Hanna manages the Institute’s operations, works closely with its Advisory Board members, and coordinates development and fundraising efforts. Her work as Chief of Staff combines her passions for politics and management. Hanna hails from Atlanta, GA, where she previously worked on Michelle Nunn’s US Senate campaign. She was also involved with several nonprofits there. She graduated magna cum laude from Georgia State University, where she received her Bachelor’s in Business Administration, but is now a Hoya at heart.

SOPHIE KIM GOLDMACHER | Director of Programming
Prior to joining the Institute, Sophie spent four years at the White House. She served as Deputy Director of the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships, where she managed the selection process for the White House Fellows program, the nation’s premiere fellowship for leadership and public service. She is a graduate of Wellesley College and Georgetown’s McCourt School of Public Policy, where she founded the Women in Public Policy Initiative.

VICTORIA CANAVOR | Program Director, Baker Center for Leadership & Governance
Victoria joined the team in March 2017 and comes to Georgetown University with 15 years of experience working across sectors and industries. Most recently, Victoria served as Senior Advisor to the President and CEO of TechnoServe, an international economic development organization dedicated to finding business solutions to poverty. Previously, Victoria worked as a management consultant with Deloitte Consulting and at the National Democratic Institute, and started her career at the political research firm Greenberg Quinn & Rosner. Victoria has degrees from Tufts University and Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management.

KAYLA AULETTO | Program Coordinator
Kayla is a 2016 graduate of the McCourt School of Public Policy. She served as the Co-Director of the Policy Innovation Lab, an initiative of the McCourt School of Public Policy, that convened the talents of students, faculty, and the local community to tackle urgent issues in the DC area. She was also an inaugural member of the GU Politics Student Advisory Board and spent the summer of 2016 as an intern in the Office of Social Innovation and Civic Participation at the White House. She is a graduate of the University of Michigan and enjoys creating engaging programs for GU Politics and continuing to explore the important role of public service in politics.

Our Team
As office assistant at the Institute, Jennifer brings four years of experience working in logistics and operations in film, television, and politics. She loves making sure the smallest details are taken care of in order to ensure success, and is ready to spring into action when they don’t. As a first-generation college graduate of Marquette University, she is excited to be back on a Jesuit campus to support Georgetown students along their journey on the Hilltop.

LAUREN MULLINS | Director of Communications, McCourt School of Public Policy
Lauren is responsible for all strategic internal and external communications for McCourt. She manages the school’s brand through traditional and social media, maintains the school’s website and social media presence, and is responsible for the school’s events strategy and execution. She has 15 years of experience in communications, public relations and marketing, including several years in the private sector where she worked for a variety of public affairs and corporate clients.

ERICA KIM | Digital Media Associate, McCourt School of Public Policy
As the Digital Media Associate, Erica creates digital campaigns, communications strategies, and marketing collateral to develop the overall GU Politics and McCourt brand to internal and external audiences. Prior to joining Georgetown, she was a Project Consultant in APCO Worldwide’s headquarters, where she worked in digital strategy for higher education, health care, crisis, and public affairs clients. Erica earned her Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies and English from Duke University.

JENNIFER SOLORIO | Office Assistant
As office assistant at the Institute, Jennifer brings four years of experience working in logistics and operations in film, television, and politics. She loves making sure the smallest details are taken care of in order to ensure success, and is ready to spring into action when they don’t. As a first-generation college graduate of Marquette University, she is excited to be back on a Jesuit campus to support Georgetown students along their journey on the Hilltop.

TONY AREND | Faculty Liaison
Anthony Clark Arend is Professor and Senior Associate Dean for Graduate and Faculty Affairs in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He also serves as the Director of the Master of Science in Foreign Service Program. Prior to coming to Georgetown, he was a Senior Fellow at the Center for National Security Law at the University of Virginia School of Law.

JUDY FEDER | Faculty Liaison
Judy Feder is a professor of public policy and from 1999 to 2008, served as dean of what is now the McCourt School of Public Policy. A nationally-recognized leader in health policy, Judy has made her mark on the nation’s health insurance system, through both scholarship and public service. In 2006 and 2008, Judy was the Democratic nominee for Congress in Virginia’s 10th congressional district. Judy has a B.A. from Brandeis University, and a master’s and Ph.D. from Harvard University.